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least equal to or greater than 20%, said activated carbon material being formed from graphitizing carbon which is a carbonized material or meso-phase pitch, wherein the activated carbon material has an electrostatic capacity density exceeding 80 F/cc while having a specific surface area equal to or less than 1,500 m²/g.--

REMARKS

Claim 8 is pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 6 and 7 are canceled and new claim 8 is added. No new matter is added.

Claim 8 is derived substantially from the combination of previous claims 6 and 7, with the further added feature that the graphitizing carbon is a carbonized material of meso-phase pitch.

New claim 8 specifies that meso-phase pitch is used as a starting material of activated carbon material and this corresponds to embodiments 3, 4 of the application.

The Office Action rejects claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato et al. (JP 10149958A) or under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Sato et al. alone, or in combination with Shimodaira et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,123). These rejections are traversed as they may apply to new claim 8.

Although, Sato et al., newly cited by the Examiner, show meso-phase pitch as a starting material for activated carbon, Sato et al. do not disclose an embodiment using meso-phase pitch at all. It is therefore not clear what kind of activated carbon would be obtained when meso-phase pitch is used as a starting material. Applicants accordingly